

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

MBFR-03 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /115 W

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R 281333 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9987

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 7663

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US, FR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV RETURN

1. WIPING AWAY TEARS OF JOY, A TIRED LOOKING GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV RETURNED TO MOSCOW EVENING JUNE 27 TO WARM WELCOME FROM

ASSEMBLED PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALL MEMBERS OF PARTY HIERARCHY WITH EXCEPTION OF POLYANSKIY, SHCHERBISKIY, MASHEROV AND ROMANOV INCLUDED IN WELCOMING PARTY. ALSO PRESENT WERE SON AND DAUGHTER- IN- LAW AND SON - IN- LAW ( LATTER IN UNIFORM OF MILITARY COLONEL).

2. UPON DESCENDING FROM AIRCRAFT, BREZHNEV EXPRESSED " GREAT JOY" AT RETURNING HOME AND TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT " GROMYKO WAS TREMENDOUS." BREZHNEV GREETED ME WARMLY ON TARMAC, SAYING THAT VISIT HAD BEEN " MARVELOUSLY ORGANIZED," THAT HE HAD ALREADY SENT TELEGRAM ( PRESUMABLY UPON DEPARTURE) THANKING THE PRESIDENT, AND THAT I COULD BE SATISFIED THAT ALL HAD GONE WELL. BREZHNEV LATER FELL BACK FROM POLITBURO GROUP AS IT MOVED TOWARD AIRPORT BUILDING, ONCE AGAIN CONVEYING TO ME HIS PLEASURE OVER THE VISIT. HIS ASSISTANT, ALEKSANDROV, ALSO MADE SPECIAL POINT OF GREETING EMBASSY PERSONNEL WITH " BEST WISHES FROM AMERICAN PEOPLE."

3. AFTER PERSONALLY GREETING ALL MEMBERS OF SOVIET WELCOMING  
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PARTY, BREZHNEV OVERHEARD SAYING TO GROUP, WHICH HAD SURGED AROUND HIM, THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE, TO WHICH HE AGREED, FOR MEETING AT AIRPORT. ASSEMBLED GROUP RESPONSE AFFIRMATIVELY, AND BREZHNEV LED VIRTUALLY ENTIRE WELCOMING GROUP TO CONFERENCE ROOM. ( AMONG FEW NOT JOINING GROUP WERE MEMBERS OF BREZHNEV FAMILY.) MEETING APPARENTLY LASTED AT LEAST 20-30 MINUTES.

4. APPEARANCE OF KUNAYEV AND RASHIDOV AT WELCOMING CEREMONY COULD BE INDICATION OF ADDED IMPORTANCE OF THIS WEEK' S THURSDAY POLITBURO MEETING AT WHICH BREZHNEV WILL PRESUMABLY REPORT ON US AND FRENCH VISITS. ( PRESENCE IN MOSCOW COULD ALSO BE CONNECTED WITH FORTHCOMING CLEBRATION OF 70 TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND CONFERENCE OF RUSSIAN SOCIAL- DEMOCRATIC WORKERS' PARTY.) NEVERTHELESS IT LIKELY THAT JOINT PARTY- GOVERNMENT STATMENT WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN NEXT FEW DAYS GIVING OFFICIAL SEAL OF APPROVAL TO BREZHNEV' S ACTIVITES DURING US AND FRENCH VISITS.

5. IN AIRPORT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, BREZHNEV' S DAUGHTER-IN- LAW COMMENTED THAT MRS. BREZHNEV SUFFERING FROM " HEART PROBLEM." SHE ADDED THAT MRS. BREZHNEV IS RESTING COMFORTABLY OUTSIDE MOSCOW AND SAID CONDITION IS NOW STABLE ALTHOUGH " AT HER AGE ONE IS NEVER SURE WHAT WILL HAPPEN." DUBS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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